Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on anti-Yugoslav Activities conducted by the Albanian authorities

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia warns, with great concern, of new waves of the latest militant and warmongering statements coming from Tirana, in line with the continuous anti-Yugoslav activities and the already known frequent slanders. The President of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Salihu Berisha, at a conference of the Democratic Party of Albania, once again called the separatist forces in Kosovo and Metohija to fight for the realization of nationalist aspirations reflected in the creation of "Greater Albania", at the expense of the unity and territorial integrity of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

By openly expressing territorial claims towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and other Balkan States in which the Albanian national minority lives, President Berisha threatened to use all available means to prevent "the carving up of Albanian national territories" by which, as is known, he implied all territories inhabited by Albanians.

By fabricating that the threat is coming from Serbia, President Berisha frightens, in a dramatic way, the Albanian and European public with the outbreak of a new Balkan war.

By his public and formal calling for a conflict in Kosovo and Metohija and by Albania's obligation to intervene if this happens, the Albanian President encourages separatists and extremists within the Albanian national minority to commit irresponsible and unlawful acts. In such a way, Albania openly and grossly violates the obligations it has as a member of the international community in its relations with neighbouring countries, to which the international community must respond adequately.

Requests for placing Kosovo and Metohija under United Nations protectorate and North Atlantic Treaty Organization military protection uncover the real nature of Albania's policy towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This policy, for which President Berisha requests military and political support from foreign factors, is the only real source of threat against stabilization in the Balkans and of an outbreak of new military conflicts.

The calls of the Albanian President for lifting the arms embargo imposed on Bosnian Muslims and his opposition to the lifting of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are provocative, and contrary to the efforts and goals of the Geneva peace process and cast full light on Albania's increasingly unscrupulous policy of "fishing in muddy waters" in the Yugoslav crisis.

President Berisha's speech shows that Albania sees in the continuation of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the threat of its expansion to the south of the Balkans a possibility of achieving its goal - unification of all Albanians.

Therefore, the repeated Albanian assurances that it is concerned about peace are utterly hypocritical and unconvincing.

The Yugoslav side calls once again upon President Berisha and the Government of the Republic of Albania to accept the hand of good-neighbourliness and cooperation, instead of conducting persistent anti-Serb propaganda and political campaigning, playing with fire irresponsibly and resorting to pathetic threats. The Albanian side could contribute to the solution of current problems, and thereby to the strengthening of peace and stability in this part of the Balkans, if it turned to reason and built up normal good-neighbourly relations based on reality.

The Yugoslav side expresses its readiness again to solve all outstanding issues in bilateral relations by peaceful and political means. This is the only sensible and acceptable way to overcome the current tension in mutual relations and to achieve general goals, i.e. the building of greater confidence and stability and the development of cooperation in the region, not the exacerbation of relations and confrontation offered by the Albanian President.